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SUBJECT: FRENCH SUPPORT PRE-DAYTON ANNIVERSARY AGENDA BUT
SKEPTICAL BOSNIANS WILL MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS

REF: STATE 180582

(SBU) On September 29, we delivered reftel demarche seeking PIC Steering Board support for our pre-Dayton anniversary agenda to Edouard Beslay, the MFA's DAS-equivalent for the Balkans, and Michel Clercx, Bosnia desk officer. Clercx said the GOF supported our stressing the importance of progress to BiH officials in advance of the Dayton anniversary. Nevertheless, France was skeptical, said Clercx, that significant progress could be made using the Dayton anniversary as a lever to effect progress especially in regard to police reform and the transfer of Karadzic and Mladic to The Hague. Given the strong possibility that progress would be uneven, France preferred the planning of a more low-key Dayton anniversary ceremony, said Clercx. He added that France was itself considering holding a ceremony in Paris, although the MFA had not yet made a decision on this. When asked for any details about this potential ceremony, Clercx demurred, saying all details were up in the air pending a decision on whether or not to proceed. Please visit Paris' Classified Website at:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.c> fm
STAPLETON